



State Council on Developmental Disabilities

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**SCDD, LOS ANGELES REGIONAL OFFICE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC) MEETING
NOTICE AND AGENDA**

Date: Monday, January 22, 2018

Time: 4:30p.m. to *6:30p.m.

Place: LA Regional Office, 211 North Central Avenue, Suite 620, Glendale, CA 91203

Telephone: 818-543-4631

AGENDA

1. Call to Order – Fujita
2. Welcome and Introductions -- Fujita
3. Establish Quorum -- Fujita
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Public Input -- This item is for members of the public to comment and/or present information to the Committee on items that are not on the agenda. Each person will be afforded up to three minutes to speak. Written requests, if any, will be considered first.
6. Presentation – Update on Federal Budget and Impact of Tax Reform Bill (attached)
 - a. Aaron Carruthers, Executive Director of the SCDD
7. Chairperson’s Report – Fujita
8. SCDD Member Report – Rubalcava
9. Member Reports – all
10. Regional Manager’s Report – V. Smith, Deputy Director, Regional Office Operations
11. Adjournment

Pursuant to Government Code Sections 11123.1 and 11125(f), individuals with disabilities who require accessible alternative formats of the agenda and related meeting materials and/or auxiliary aids/services to participate in the meeting, should contact the SCDD LA Office at 818.543.4631 or email marina.bchtikian@scdd.ca.gov. Requests must be received by 5:00 p.m., on January 12, 2018.

() Ending time for the meeting is approximate and is intended solely for the purpose of travel planning*

“The Council advocates, promotes & implements policies and practices that achieve self-determination, independence, productivity & inclusion in all aspects of community life for Californians with developmental disabilities and their families.”

From: Carruthers, Aaron@SCDD

Sent: Thursday, December 28, 2017 1:54 PM

To: April Lopez Chair

Subject: Tax Bill, Stop-Gap Funding Signed; Automatic Cuts Averted; Disaster Aid Delayed

Hello Council Members,

Hope you are each having a nice holiday season. Want to give you a quick rundown of where things stand in DC. Congress returns on Jan. 3rd to a hectic month. A summary of where they ended 2017, and what they will need to do in Jan. 2018.

Tax Bill Signed

On Dec. 22, President Trump signed the tax bill. The total cost is \$1.46 trillion over 10 years. The tax bill:

- provides a permanent cut to the corporate tax rate from 35% to 21%;
- gives large tax cuts to heirs of estates and individuals;
- provides individual tax breaks that will expire in 2025;
- doubles the standard deduction, although it repeals personal exemptions and eliminates other deductions;
- repeals the individual mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) resulting in millions of people without health insurance and will raising health premiums by 10% for millions more; and
- maintains a number of deductions and tax credits that specifically help people with disabilities including improving the medical expense deduction.

Funding for Federal Government for Remainder of FY 2018

President Trump signed a third stop-gap continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government funded through Jan. 19 as negotiations continue on a budget deal. The disagreement on finalizing funding results from disagreements on how to fund defense versus non-defense discretionary programs (that fund all social safety net programs and programs for persons with disabilities). The press is reporting that they might be trying to reach a deal for this current year (2018) and next fiscal year (2019) on top line numbers.

The current CR:

- continues funding for all agencies at FY 2017 levels through Jan. 19, 2018, including SCDD;
- provides \$2.85 billion to extend funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program through March; and
- includes a key provision that will prevent automatic "Pay-As-You-Go" cuts to Medicare, and other mandatory spending programs that would have been triggered by deficit increases in the tax bill.

Health and Entitlement Programs in 2018

- Funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) has expired and must be reauthorized by Congress. Congress temporarily funded the program through March

- Entitlement Cuts in 2018: House Speaker Ryan said on Dec. 6, “We’re going to have to get back next year at entitlement reform, which is how you tackle the debt and the deficit,” signaling a renewed effort to make deep cuts in Medicare, Medicaid and other entitlements. Senate Leader McConnell has pledged to return to work in a bi-partisan manner, and does not appear to be looking to entitlement reform.
- The tax bill effectively repealed the individual mandate in the ACA. According to a CBO/JCT analysis, the repeal will decrease the number of insured Americans by 4 million in 2019 and 13 million by 2027. The average premiums in will increase by about 10 percent.
- ACA cost-sharing reduction (CSR) payments will end unless Congress adopts some form of the Alexander-Murray Bipartisan Health Care Stabilization Act of 2017. Allowing expiration of the CSR payments is estimated by CBO to destabilize health insurance exchanges, increase premiums, and increase federal deficits by nearly \$200 billion.

Debt Ceiling

The tax bill pushes the debt towards 100% of gross domestic product. The debt-ceiling must be raised by March or early April to avoid the US defaulting on its debt. The Treasury will need to use 'extraordinary measures' that will probably be exhausted in late March or early April.

The main reasons for the increasing debt:

- Erosion of tax revenues due to proposed tax cuts, and current tax expenditures (deductions/credits); Growth in entitlement spending due to aging of the population and rising health costs;
- Rapidly rising defense spending since 2000, due in part to the Iraq/Afghanistan wars;
- Rapidly rising interest payments due to growth in the public debt; and
- Slow economic growth due to lack of public investment in infrastructure.

I’ll continue to keep watch on the news from DC, inform you about the impact on people with developmental disabilities, and advise you on actions the Council and advocates may want to take.

Here’s to unified and strong advocacy in 2018.

Aaron Carruthers
Executive Director
State Council on **Developmental Disabilities**
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